

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 remain in the application, all of which stand rejected.

Various of applicant's claims have been amended to indicate that the "number of devices" on a network which are centrally managed is a "plurality of devices". Support for this amendment is found, at least, on page 5, line 14, of applicant's specification. Thus, no new matter is believed to have been added.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-17 and 19-22 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pletl et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,920,731; hereinafter "Pletl").

To begin, the Examiner asserts that, "Pletl discloses a method for centrally managing a number of devices on a network. . .". 2/23/05 Office Action, p. 2, sec. 4. Applicant disagrees.

Although Pletl discloses a PC-card that can interface with different hosts, applicant can find no indication that Pletl's PC-card, or the host with which it interfaces, centrally manages a number of devices "on a network". For example, Pletl states:

A single PC-card which connects to multiple interfaces is disclosed. The PC-card includes electronic circuits including a detection circuit which allows the PC card to detect the interface to which the PC-card is connected and which also detects when the interface is not connected to any host. Once the PC-card detects the interface to which it is connected, it reassigns connections to comply with the connectivity requirements of each interface and performs various functions which are required by the particular host.

Pletl, col. 3, lines 36-44.

The same PC-card may be connected to a non-PCMCIA compliant host. The detection circuits of the PC-card analyze the characteristics of the host as detected by one of the connector receptacles on the PC-card.

Pletl, col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 2.

The present invention allows for multiple different electrical interfaces to work over a single PC card connector alternately. Thus, different PC-cards are not required in order to connect with different interfaces.

Pletl, col. 4, lines 57-59.

Thus, Pletl's PC-card can detect and interface with a plurality of different hosts into which it is inserted. However, it does not centrally manage devices on a network.

In col. 7, lines 48-52 (and elsewhere), Pletl discloses that a PC-card constructed in accordance with the invention may take the form of a modem that connects to various devices. However, note that the PC-card's interface which connects to devices via a modem-connection is not the same interface that connects the PC-card to a host. Furthermore, there is no indication that the PC-card centrally manages the devices of the network to which it connects via its modem.

To better illustrate the network context of his invention, the applicant has amended his claim 1 to recite, "A method for centrally managing a ~~number~~plurality of devices on a network. . .".

Applicant's claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Pletl for at least the above reasons. Applicant's claims 2-8 are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from applicant's claim 1. Applicant's claims 9-17 and 19-22 are believed to be allowable at least for reasons similar to why applicant's claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

2. Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pletl et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,920,731; hereinafter "Pletl") in view of Kennedy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,298,391 B1; hereinafter "Kennedy").

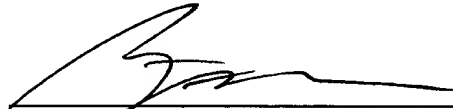
Applicant's claim 18 is believed to be allowable at least for the reason that it depends from applicant's claim 9, and because Kennedy does not disclose that which applicant has argued is missing from Pletl. Furthermore, the Examiner has provided no motivation for combining the teachings of Pletl and Kennedy, other than

that these patents are related to "the same endeavor". However, in the absence of either Pletl or Kennedy providing a motivation to combine their teachings, applicant believes the Examiner is actually just using applicant's own specification as a guide to undertake a hindsight reconstruction of his claimed invention.

3. Conclusion

Given the above Amendment and Remarks, applicant respectfully requests the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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